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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,425	07/26/2001	Jordan Pollack	XXPO-5J	6994

7590 11/02/2006
IANDIORIO & TESKA
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ATTORNEYS
260 BEAR HILL ROAD
WALTHAM, MA 02451-1018

EXAMINER

HARBECK, TIMOTHY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3692

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code (see at least page 15 of disclosure). See MPEP § 608.01.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al (hereinafter Larson, US 5,825,854) in view of Prust (US 6,714,968 B1).

Re Claim 1: Larson discloses a system for management and manipulation of stored files comprising:

- A receiving portal for receiving from a sender an item including a first field which contains a user identification (Fig 21 Ref 54; Column 3 line 63-Column 4 line 4), a second field which contains a file handle (Column 5, lines 35-38) and a third field which contains a command specification (Column 4, lines 25-35)

- A storage device containing a file corresponding to said file handle
(See Fig 6a Refs 150-152 and Column 7 lines 39-41)
- A rights verifier for determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle (Column 3, line 64-Column 4 line 4)
- A command executor which executes said command specification on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have access rights to the file (See Fax example Figs 6a and 6b and Column 7 line 21-61)

Larson does not explicitly disclose wherein the item is in the form of an electronic mail item from a sender. Prust discloses a method and system for seamless access to a remote storage server utilizing multiple access interfaces executing on the remote server including remote access to virtual data storage via electronic mail (Column 8, lines 9-19). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill at the time of invention to modify the system of Larson in view of Prust so that a user has further means to remotely access and interact with important data. One would be motivated to do this in order to access stored files from a portable device, such as a wireless Blackberry device, which is capable of sending emails from remote locations. This would be more efficient than using the telephone system of Larson as a user would not have to find a landline telephone, or worry about having cellular phone service for the duration of the procedure.

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Re Claim 2: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further includes a file handle recognizer for locating conforming file handle patterns within the body of the electronic mail item (Column 7, lines 7-21).

Re Claim 3: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further includes a user identification system which extracts information from the electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item to enable verification of the sender as a known user of the system (Fig 7; Column 7, lines 7-34; "user information," "storage server parses information in order to extract one or more target directories,"):

Re Claim 4: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further includes a command parser which recognizes and assembles a command out of the information extracted from the electronic mail item (Column 7, lines 30-34)

Re Claim 5: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file from the storage device. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to be able to delete a file from a storage device if it was determined that that file was no longer needed. It would have been obvious then to include this feature to the disclosure of Larson in view of Prust as a way to maintain organization of the data store. In this way a user cannot waste valuable storage space on unwanted files and the system can operate more efficiently as it will not have to sift through and keep track of unnecessary data.

Re Claim 6: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file as an email attachment (Column 7, lines 30-34)

Re Claim 7: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file to a third party as an email attachment. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to email a separate party with a file attachment from data storage. It would have been obvious then to allow the user to simply issue this as a command to the system as a way to eliminate the "middleman" of the process, which in this instance would be the aforementioned user. In stead of the multi-step process of requesting the file from the system, receiving the file in an email from the system and then subsequently creating a new email message to the third party, it would be much more time efficient to simply forward the relevant file directly from the remote storage to the third party at the request of the user.

Re Claim 8: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to create a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device (Column 7, lines 26-30). While not explicitly disclosing the step of forwarding to a third party, as was discussed in the rejection of claim 8, it was well known in the art at the time of invention to email a separate party with a file attachment from data storage. It would have been obvious then to allow the user to simply issue this as a command to the system as a way to eliminate the "middleman" of the process, which in this instance

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would be the aforementioned user. In stead of the multi-step process of requesting the file from the system, receiving the file in an email from the system and then subsequently creating a new email message to the third party, it would be much more time efficient to simply forward the relevant file directly from the remote storage to the third party at the request of the user.

Re Claim 9: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Larson further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a fax machine at a specified telephone number (Column 1 line 66-Column 2 line 1).

Re Claim 10: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Larson further includes at least one of an optical character recognition device (Column 2, lines 17-20), automatic speech recognition device, language translation device (Column 12, Table III), and a file format translation device (Column 7, lines 39-46) associated with the command executor.

Re Claim 11: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but the references do not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to plain text and email it back to the sender. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to convert a file to plain text for the purposes of email dissemination. When an email with an attachment is forwarded to a third party, many times the third party might not have the software to view certain types of files. By converting the file into the plain text of an email, the user

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can send pertinent information to the third party without having to worry about said third parties ability to view the information.

Re Claim 12: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Larson further discloses wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number (Column 3 line 57-Column 4 line 24).

Re Claim 13: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to automatically print the file and mail it to a third party. However it was well known in the art at the time of invention to simply print a document for mailing to a third party and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention. Furthermore Larson discloses that a document can be faxed to a specific number by utilizing the command features (Column 4 line 25-54). It was well known in the art that faxing a document to a third party, in essence, involves printing a document at the recipient's location. If however the intended recipient did not have a fax machine it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to achieve the same result through the old and well-known conventional mailing system.

Re Claim 14: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the storage device further includes an automatic deletion timer associated with at least one of the stored files. However automatic deletion timers for storage devices where old and well known in the art at the time of invention and would have been obvious to anyone or ordinary skill in the art. For

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instance, email applications often have a prompt for auto deletion of pieces of mail that have not been reviewed for a predetermined amount of time. In this way the user does not have to manually go through the storage device in order to clean out unwanted files, as it is likely that any file that has not been viewed in some time is of little value. This saves space and allows for easier management of the storage device.

Re Claim 15: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to change the date of auto deletion of the file. However this step is old and well known in the art at the time of invention and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill. One would be motivated to do this so a user has control over the deletion of his files. For instance one user may want to save files for up to 6 months to avoid erroneously deleting important files. Another user may feel that a file not viewed for over 2 months is not worth saving and may set the preference likewise. If the user is not allowed to control the auto deletion function, many users would be dissatisfied with the function and may prefer to manually control the deletion of files. This would render the auto-deletion function moot to many users.

Re Claim 16: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein said file handle is a uniform resource locator (Column 26-30)

Re Claim 17: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed system supra and Prust further discloses wherein the storage device is chosen from the group consisting

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of hard drives (Ref 120), optical drives (Ref 122), random access memories (Ref 115), tape drives, RAID arrays (Column 4, lines 57-59), and storage area networks.

Re Claim 18: Further method claim would have been obvious to implement from previously rejected system claim 1 rejected previously, and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

Re Claim 19: Further computer readable medium claim would have been obvious in order to implement the previously rejected method of claim 18 on the previously rejected system of claim 1 and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

Re Claim 20: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is a hard drive (Fig 1, Ref 120)

Re Claim 21: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is and optical drive (Fig 1, Ref 122)

Re Claim 22: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is a Random Access Memory (Fig 1, Ref 115)

Re Claim 23: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra and Prust further discloses wherein the computer readable medium is a Read Only Memory (Fig 1, Ref 114)

Re Claim 24: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed computer readable medium supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the computer readable medium is a tape drive. However tape drives are old and well known in the art at the time of invention and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill as a means to implement a software application. A Tape drive have been used for some time to perform this function and is also a simple substitute for things such as a floppy disk or CD-ROM disclosed by Prust (Fig 1, Fig 4, lines 16-23).

Re Claim 25: Further processor and memory claim would have been obvious in order to implement the previously rejected method claim 18 on previously rejected system claim 1 and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

Re Claim 26: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra and Prust further discloses wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into a personal computer (Column 3, lines 37-40)

Re Claim 27: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller. However the step of incorporating a processor into a programmable logic controller is old and well known in the art and would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention. One would be motivated to do this in order to program the logic of the computer according to one's own specification and not one set by a manufacturer.

Re Claim 28: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra but does not explicitly disclose wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer. However single board computers were old and well known in the art and it would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill to include this feature to the system. Furthermore it was well known that many personal computer, laptops and PDA's, such as the ones disclosed by Prust (Column 3, lines 37-40) operate on a single circuit board. Therefore it would have been obvious to permit users with these configurations to perform the methods to reach a broader audience.

Re Claim 29: Larson in view of Prust discloses the claimed processor and memory supra and Prust further discloses wherein the processor and memory are incorporated into an array of network servers. Prust discloses that the users utilize the Internet, which is a worldwide collection of networks that spans hundreds of countries and millions of computers (Column 2, lines 62-64).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 05/16/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's first contention centers about the fact that the data provided in the telephone gateway of Larson is provided sequentially, whereas the applicant asserts that the present application discloses a system in which all components are provided to the system contemporaneously. The examiner points out however, that the subject matter, as claimed, does not call for the data components to be entered simultaneously, just that a first, second and third field be entered. Although a claim should be

interpreted in light of the specification disclosure, it is generally considered improper to read limitations contained in the specification into the claims. See *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 162 USPQ 541 (CCPA 1969) and *In re Winkhaus*, 527 F.2d 637, 188 USPQ 129 (CCPA 1975), which discuss the premise that one cannot rely on the specification to impart limitations to the claim that are not recited in the claim.

Applicant's second main argument is that since Larson involves a telephone gateway, whereas the Prust system allows for more traditional network based access, the applicant respectfully asserts that Larson and Prust are nonanalogous art. In response to applicant's argument that these are nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, both Larson and Prust involve a system and method for accessing data stored remotely. In other words, both references are within the applicant's endeavor, and simply provide alternative means for accessing the data. Therefore the examiner does not feel that they are nonanalogous.

In response to the applicants contention that undue experimentation would be required for the combination of the prior art, the examiner respectfully submits that the applicant has misinterpreted the term 'undue experimentation,' at least as it is commonly used in prosecution. Undue experimentation generally refers to enablement matters of an application under examination, not prior art references. The examiner

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believes that applicant is more likely arguing that there is improper motivation to combine the references.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, both applications are directed toward a system/method for accessing remote data. Larson utilizes a telephone system as a means for such access. Prust provides a teaching that such information can be accessed via a computer network, and specifically via email. The examiner maintains that a person of ordinary skill, in view of the art and the problem to be solved would come to the conclusion to include remote access to the data of Larson via a computer network and email. Specifically, one would be motivated to do this in order to access stored files from a portable device, such as a wireless Blackberry device, which is capable of sending emails from remote locations. This would be more efficient than using the telephone system of Larson as a user would not have to find a landline telephone, or worry about having cellular phone service for the duration of the procedure.

It is further noted that upon a second look of the specification, certain objections have been noted, namely the inclusion of hyperlinks. These issues, while not affecting the present action, need to be addressed in any future communication.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Harbeck whose telephone number is 571-272-8123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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RICHARD E. CHILCOT, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER